stands so safe. I will lay you ten thousand ducats to your ring, that, commend me to the court where your lady is, with no more advantage than the opportunity of a second conference, and I will bring from thence that honour of hers, which you imagine so reserved.

POST. I will wage against your gold, gold to it: my ring I hold dear as my finger; 'tis part of it.

IACH. You are a friend, and therein the wiser[3].

3 You are a FRIEND, and therein the wiser.] I correct it:

" You are *afraid,* and therein the wiser."

What lachimo says, in the close of his speech, determines this to have been our poet's reading:

« But, I see, you have some religion in you, that you *fear."*

WARBURTON.

You are a friend to the lady, *and therein the wiser,* as you will not expose her to hazard ; and that *youjfear* is a proof of your *religious* fidelity. JOHNSON.

Though Dr. Warburton affixed his name to the preceding note, it is taken *verbatim* from one written by Mr. Theobald on this passage.

[But let it be remembered, that Dr. Warburton communicated many notes to Theobald before he published his own edition, and complains that he was not fairly dealt with concerning them.

REED.]

K friend in our author's time often signified a *lover** lachimo therefore might mean that Posthumus was wise in being only the *lover* of Imogen, and not having bound himself to her by the indissoluble ties of marriage. But unluckily Posthumus has already said he is *not her friend,* but her adorer: this therefore could hardly have been lachimo's meaning.

I cannot say that I am entirely satisfied with Dr. Johnson's interpretation ; yet I have nothing better to propose. " You are a friend to the lady, and therefore will not expose her to hazard. This snrely is not warranted by what Posthumus has just said. He is ready enough to expose her to hazard. He has actually exposed her to hazard by accepting the wager. He will not indeed risk his *diamond,* but has offered to lay a sum of money, that lachimo, "with all appliances and means to boot," will not be able to corrupt her. I do not therefore see the force of lachimo's observation. It would have been more "german to the matter"* to have said, in allusion to the former words of Posthumus—You are *not* a friend, i. e. a lover, and therein the wiser: for all women are corruptible. MALONE.